

## Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method for analyzing the errors inherent in the manufacture and recording of media and utilizing those errors as a signature for the specific media copy. Manufactured media, in this case CD's and similar type digitally encoded media, contain errors that are truly random in nature. Randomness is reflected in the spatial distribution of the E11 and E12 errors. These errors arise from a variety of sources and are manifested by experimental observation in non-correlative distribution. The nature of the errors that occur on parallel manufactured optical media can be classified into several categories: Recording errors, Encoding errors, Mastering errors, Molding defects, Materials defects, Contamination defects, Coating defects, Handling defects, Surface contamination, Playback errors, Optical ambiguity, A/D nonlinearity, and CODEC error. These errors all contribute to a unique error signature for each item of media manufactured. Using these unique signatures of errors, the individual identification of each piece of media can be established. Thus a method for the detection of a media copy signature is also established.

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